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which is to show what was the effect of the adoption and pursuit of a given policy. If Henry's work had ended with him, Mr. Towle's volume would have been a very creditable book; but as the evil he did, like most evil, was long-lived, and in some respects affects the world at the present time, that volume is very defective, and falls far short of the true historical standard. It is not enough for the reader that the author shows, or enables him to understand, that Henry V. was a combination of benevolence and bullying, of religion and rapine, — that he was a Catholic Puritan and a successful soldier; something more is demanded, and that something is here wanting, — because the author knew that the moment he should begin to sum up the effect of his hero's deeds, he would necessarily enter upon a sentence of condemnation, if regard should be had for truth. Looking at the consequences of Henry's conduct, he must be pronounced one of the greatest failures in history.

Mr. Towle's book has considerable merit. It shows familiarity with its subject, a scrupulous consultation of all authorities accessible to an American writing at home, and liberality of sentiment. Its failings are hero-worship — which blinds the author to his hero's faults, and disposes him to see only the better points of his character — and a style that is ever aiming at eloquence, and which often sinks into tumidity. There are passages in his book that show he can write naturally; and if he will imitate them in that *Life of Margaret of Anjou* on which report says he is engaged, and always restrain his tendency to rhetorical excess, he will take respectable rank among living historical writers. His faults are such as are easily corrected, if he is a man of sense, and not above profiting from lessons which able men in all times have condescended to receive even from those whom they could fairly regard as inferiors. It is because we wish him to succeed that we have dwelt chiefly on his defects, in the hope that we shall not see them repeated.

10. — *The United States during the War.* — By AUGUSTE LAUGEL.
New York: Baillière Brothers. 1866. 8vo. pp. xv., 313.

THE art of travelling so as to understand a foreign country and its inhabitants has never been much practised. There have always been good observers, men quick to see, but few among them have really understood what they saw. To the Greeks and the Romans travelling was but the means of confirming their sense of superiority to the rest of the world. The average Englishman, with less reason, finds in travelling the same support of his insular pride. Each nation is a nation

of barbarians to the ignorant of another race. The brotherhood of the world is preceded by a long period of repulsion of foreign brother to brother. A foreign language seems an insult to the intelligence of the uncultivated, — a violation of nature, morally offensive. The habit of regarding a foreign people otherwise than as inferiors to our own is an indication of high and humane civilization; and the growth of this habit, slow though it be, is one of the sure signs of the gradual progress of the world.

To be a good traveller, especially to be a good writer of travels, a man must not only observe well, but must have a just standard of comparison in his own mind. He should not only be intelligent, but he should possess a penetrative imagination and lively sympathies. He must bear in mind the difference between habit and custom and the moral law. To describe such a traveller at length would be to describe an ideal character, to which few travellers or writers of travels have approached, as we in America long ago discovered. What incomprehensible savages we have appeared in travellers' books! Suppose the continent to sink, and no record of us to remain but that contained in the books of English travellers, what an amusing and horrible reputation we should enjoy among posterity! What an extraordinary picture any attempted historic reconstruction of us would present!

There have, indeed, been a few travellers of the better sort, — men such as Sir Charles Lyell, with cultivated intelligence, liberal judgment, and clear appreciation, or men like De Tocqueville, not so much travellers in the proper sense as philosophical students of political and social aspects and institutions. To this small class M. Laugel belongs, holding a sort of middle place in it between the traveller who simply records the journal of his own experiences and the reflections suggested by them, and the political philosopher who travels for the sake of investigating the nature and results of the principles of national life. His book combines the interest of personal narrative with that of a political essay, and it shows that its author possesses, in a rare degree, qualities which give him special claim to attention and respect.

It is not often that a man so eminently fitted to travel and to narrate his travels comes from Europe. Of French birth, long a resident in England, and connected by marriage with America, M. Laugel has had a cosmopolitan experience. With a natural tendency to serious studies and reflections, with powers disciplined by the successful pursuit of exact science, familiar with the most cultivated society of Europe, he was not merely thus intellectually prepared, but his moral education had been such as to qualify him still more completely for travelling in America. Practically exiled from France on account of his liberal

opinions and opposition to the imperial *régime*, he was naturally attracted to the study of the free institutions of this country. His sympathies quickened his intelligence, and his moral sense gave earnestness to his intellectual convictions.

The very striking Introduction to this volume gives evidence of the union in his intellectual composition of that power of rapid generalization characteristic of the French mind with an English solidity of judgment. The analysis of the American character contained in these few pages is a remarkable piece of work. It is alike acute and comprehensive, and, though drawn with broad and vigorous strokes, presents a likeness quite as exact as if the detail were more elaborately rendered. It is a study of ourselves from which we ourselves may receive much instruction. We should regret that our space does not allow us to quote these pages, were it not that we trust our readers will turn to them in the volume itself.

The first chapter of the book is occupied with a lucid and interesting statement of the cause of the war, which is followed in succeeding chapters with an account, exceedingly well given, of the military and political events during the war, and of the Presidential campaign and election of 1864. M. Laugel's remarks on all these topics are often distinguished for their justness and penetration. In reading his condensed narrative, we feel how much we have lived through, and how great results are yet to proceed from the events which have made the America of 1866 so different from the America of 1860.

Succeeding chapters of the volume are occupied with an interesting and instructive account of the author's extended tour through the country. Nowhere is the greatness and abundance of the West better set forth than in these pages; and M. Laugel's reflections concerning the political character and future relations of the different parts of the country exhibit unusual insight and breadth of view.

One of the most interesting chapters is that on Abraham Lincoln, of whom M. Laugel gives one of the best descriptive portraits yet drawn. The appreciation of Mr. Lincoln's character displayed in this chapter betrays the sympathetic nature, the pure feeling, and the penetrative imagination of the author. It is a piece of such tender and exquisite analysis as very few men, not bound to Mr. Lincoln by the tie of a common native land, are capable of making. It is a description that will be valued by Americans in time to come, as the contemporary testimony of a foreigner competent to judge concerning him whose memory will be forever dear and honored among us as no other can be.

M. Laugel has done a service to us for which the nation owes him its grateful acknowledgments, in giving to European readers in two lan-

guages an account of this country so truthful, so genial, and so well calculated to remove the erroneous conceptions of ignorance and prejudice which prevail even among otherwise well-informed Europeans.

11. — *Second Annual Report of the Board of State [Massachusetts] Charities ; to which are added the Reports of the Secretary, and the General Agent of the Board.* January, 1866. Boston : Wright and Potter, State Printers. 8vo. pp. cxviii., 427.

THIS volume is a legislative document of far more than common interest and value. The Report of the Board, which occupies one hundred and seventeen pages, is not of merely local importance. It discusses the principles of public charity, the natural laws of crime, the social conditions of the criminal classes, the causes of insanity, and the methods of treatment of criminals and of the insane. The treatment of these questions in the Report is distinguished, not merely by a thorough acquaintance with the various topics, but by a spirit of the highest intelligence and wisest humanity. The clear and vigorous intellect, the wide experience, and the special fitness of its author are no less conspicuous than his large and sympathetic heart. In preparing this Report, Dr. Howe has rendered a new service to the community. It is a fortunate thing for a State when she can call upon such a citizen to serve her.

The Report of the Secretary of the Board, Mr. Sanborn, shows his eminent fitness for the position which he occupies, and his entire fidelity to his charge. It is worthy to be associated with the Report of the Board, and, although chiefly occupied with matters of comparatively local interest, it contains much of general application, and affords very valuable material to the student of the philosophy of crime and poverty, and of the institutions intended to repress the one and relieve the other. The Report of the General Agent is mainly one of detail of local business. It is a sensible and business-like document.

Massachusetts has done no wiser thing of late years than the creation of this Board. Her charitable and penal establishments form one of the most important departments of her institutions, for within them she feeds, clothes, lodges, and controls more than "four thousand persons, towards whom she constantly stands in the relation of parent and guardian." To submit these various establishments to the supervision of a body of intelligent and humane men, who should recommend such changes as they might deem necessary or desirable for their efficient and economical administration, was the intention with which the